

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 3406

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a mobile Internet access hotspot grant program to provide grants to facilitate distance learning for public school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 32, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. MOBILE INTERNET ACCESS HOTSPOT GRANTS PROGRAM

Sec. 32.321. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM. (a) To the extent funds are available for the purpose, the agency shall establish a mobile Internet access hotspot grant program to provide grants to eligible school districts to facilitate distance learning.

(b) The agency shall develop:

(1) a method to prioritize grants to serve the highest number of low-income students;

(2) eligibility criteria for school districts to receive grants under the program; and

(3) an annual application process for school districts to apply to receive grants under the program.

Sec. 32.322. FUNDING. The commissioner:

(1) may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source, person, or group to implement and administer this subchapter; and

(2) shall maximize the funding by leveraging federal,

1 state, local, and private money to provide grants under the
2 program.

3 Sec. 32.323. USE OF GRANT FUNDS. (a) A school district may
4 use money received from a grant under this subchapter to facilitate
5 a mobile Internet access hotspot program that provides hotspot
6 devices to:

7 (1) students enrolled in the district; or
8 (2) the parents or guardians of students enrolled in
9 the district.

10 (b) A device provided under a mobile Internet access hotspot
11 program established under Subsection (a) must:

12 (1) be portable;
13 (2) not be subject to a data limitation; and
14 (3) comply with all applicable state and federal laws
15 regarding online privacy.

16 Sec. 32.324. REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE. The agency shall
17 submit a report to the legislature that includes data and analysis
18 regarding the efficacy of the program under this subchapter and any
19 associated recommendations:

20 (1) not later than December 1, 2023; and
21 (2) not later than December 1, 2027.

22 Sec. 32.325. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires September
23 1, 2028.

24 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2022-2023
25 school year.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.